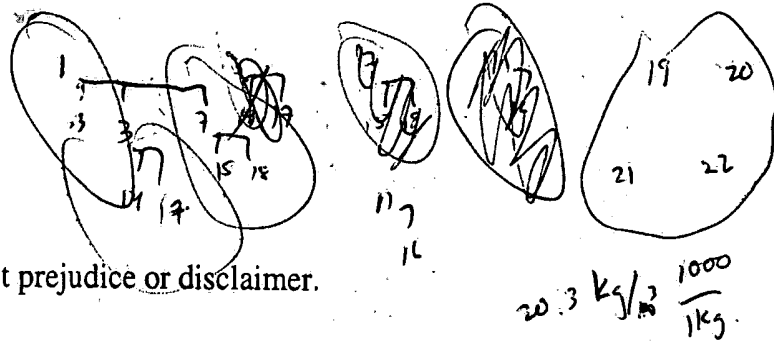


2/14/00
2/14/01



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A shape memory foam member, wherein
a coefficient of water absorption is in the range between 0.01 g/cm^3 and 0.2 g/cm^3
 0.056 g/cm^3 and 0.082 g/cm^3 in a non-compressed state and a bulk density is not more
than 400 kg/m^3 , and
said shape memory foam member with an original shape is compressed with
heating; cooled with keeping said shape memory foam member in the compressed state;
and released from the compressive pressure after cooling, and
the original shape of said shape memory foam member is substantially recovered
by heating

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) An engine soundproof cover disposed to cover an
engine, comprising:

the shape memory foam member of claim 1 provided on a surface of said
soundproof cover which covers the engine.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) An engine soundproof structure comprising:

a soundproof cover disposed to cover an engine,

wherein the shape memory foam member of claim 1 is provided on a surface of said soundproof cover which covers the engine.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a shape memory foam member comprising:

providing the shape memory foam member having a coefficient of water absorption in the range between ~~0.01 g/cm³ and 0.2 g/cm³~~ 0.056 g/cm³ and 0.082 g/cm³ in a non-compressed state and having a bulk density not more than 400 kg/m³;

compressing the shape memory foam member with heating;

cooling the shape memory foam member with keeping the shape memory foam member in the compressed state; and

releasing the shape memory foam member from the compressive pressure after cooling thereby retaining a shape in the compressed state.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The shape memory foam member according to Claim 1, wherein a bulk density is not more than 150 kg/m³.

14. (Previously Presented) The engine soundproof cover according to Claim 3, wherein a bulk density is not more than 150 kg/m³.

15. (Previously Presented) The engine soundproof structure according to Claim 7, wherein a bulk density is not more than 150 kg/m³.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a shape memory foam member according to Claim 11, wherein a bulk density of the shape memory foam member is not more than 150 kg/m^3 .

17. (Previously Presented) The engine soundproof cover according to Claim 3, wherein the original shape of said shape memory foam member is substantially recovered via engine heat.

18. (Previously Presented) The engine soundproof structure according to Claim 7, wherein the original shape of said shape memory foam member is substantially recovered via engine heat.

19. (Previously Presented) A shape memory foam member, wherein a coefficient of water absorption is in the range between 0.04 g/cm^3 and 0.1 g/cm^3 in a non-compressed state and a bulk density is not more than 400 kg/m^3 , and said shape memory foam member with an original shape is compressed with heating; cooled with keeping said shape memory foam member in the compressed state; and released from the compressive pressure after cooling, and the original shape of said shape memory foam member is substantially recovered by heating.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a shape memory foam member comprising:

providing the shape memory foam member having a coefficient of water absorption in the range between 0.04 g/cm^3 and 0.1 g/cm^3 in a non-compressed state and having a bulk density not more than 400 kg/m^3 ;

compressing the shape memory foam member with heating;

cooling the shape memory foam member with keeping the shape memory foam member in the compressed state; and

releasing the shape memory foam member from the compressive pressure after cooling thereby retaining a shape in the compressed state.

21. (Previously Presented) A shape memory foam member, wherein a coefficient of water absorption is in the range between 0.02 g/cm^3 and 0.2 g/cm^3 in a non-compressed state and a bulk density is not more than 400 kg/m^3 , and

said shape memory foam member with an original shape is compressed with heating; cooled with keeping said shape memory foam member in the compressed state; and released from the compressive pressure after cooling, and

the original shape of said shape memory foam member is substantially recovered by heating.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a shape memory foam member comprising:

providing the shape memory foam member having a coefficient of water absorption in the range between 0.02 g/cm^3 and 0.2 g/cm^3 in a non-compressed state and having a bulk density not more than 400 kg/m^3 ;

compressing the shape memory foam member with heating;
cooling the shape memory foam member with keeping the shape memory foam member in the compressed state; and
releasing the shape memory foam member from the compressive pressure after cooling thereby retaining a shape in the compressed state.

23-24. (Canceled)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 11 and 13-22 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 have been amended, and claims 23 and 24 have been canceled.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

With reference to the Office Action, without conceding the comments in paragraph 2 or the rejection set forth in paragraph 3, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 23 and 24, respectively, which have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. As a consequence, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection set forth in paragraph 3 is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With regard to the Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter on page 5 of the Office Action, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner to any extent that such statements characterize the invention in a manner at variance with the actual wording of the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

MURAKAMI et al.
Appl. No. 09/781,953
May 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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